

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 201543Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4490

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OTRA, NI, US

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN TRAVEL: MEA CONTROLS

REF: (A) IBADAN 270 (B) KADUNA 387

1. CONCUR IBADAN PROPOSAL FOR BARR/HOPE TRAVEL TO ILORIN O/A MAY
4; WE ARE SUBMITTING NOTE TO MEA.

2. CONCUR KADUNA SUGGESTION THAT BPAO (AND WE WOULD ADD CONSULATE
OFFICER) TRAVEL TO UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
CONNECTION WITH VISITS OF VOLSPKRS OR OTHER USG-SPONSORED VISITORS
BE EXEMPTED GROM NOTIFICATION TO MEA. IN SUCH CASES
MEA WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF TRAVEL PLANS OF VISITOR AND
FACT THAT CONSULATE/BPAO OFFICER ACCOMPANIES SHOULD NOT PRESENT A
PROBLEM. EMBASSY CONCURS IN BPAO HILL TRAVEL TO ABU APRIL 22-24.

3. WITH REGARD TO FIRST PART OF KADUNA PROPOSAL, WE SUSPECT THAT
TRAVEL OF BPAO TO UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO DISCUSS
ONGOING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PROGRAM LECTURERS, AND COUNSEL
STUDENTS WOULD FALL UNDER REQUIREMENT FOR NOTIFICATION TO MEA AS
SET FORTH IN MEA'S INSTRUCTION LAST DECEMBER. ON THE OTHER HAND,
WE WANT TO MOVE TOWARD TRAVEL ON AS UNRESTRICTED A BASIS AS
POSSIBLE AND WOULD BE INCLINED AT THE PROPER TIME TO TAKE
CALCULATED RISK ON CAREFULLY SELECTED VISITS WITHOUT NOTIFYING
MEA. DECISION IN SUCH CASES WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON JUDGMENT OF
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PRINCIPAL OFFICER/BPAO THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF

INCIDENT OR OBJECTION ON PART OF STUDENTS OR FACULTY AND THAT UNIVERSITY OR SCHOOL OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE NO REASON NOR INCLINATION TO BRING BPAO TRAVEL TO ATTENTION OF MEA. WE BELIEVE IT PRUDENT, HOWEVER, TO HOLD OFF ON SUCH PROBES FOR THE TIME BEING IN LIGHT OF (A) CONFIRMATION THAT TRAVEL BAN IS STILL ON (INTER ALIA, PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED BY MEA LAST WEEK NOT TO MAKE PROPOSED PRIVATE PLEASURE VISIT TO BENIN CITY), (B) APRIL 19 DAILY TIMES EDITORIAL MENTIONING ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INFORMATION SERVICES AND DEPLORING EXPOSURE OF NIGERIAN YOUTH TO "FOREIGN CULTURAL INFLUENCES WHICH ON THE WHOLE ALIENATE THEM FROM THEIR OWN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL VALUES." AND (C) STATEMENT BY MEA TO AMBASSADOR APRIL 20 INDICATING THAT BAN MAY BE LIFTED IN COURSE NEXT WEEK OR SO. WE WILL TAKE ANOTHER READING ON THIS AT END OF NEXT WEEK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, TRAVEL CONTROLS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS04636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760149-0775
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760444/aaaablcp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 IBADAN 270, 76 KADUNA 387
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN TRAVEL: MEA CONTROLS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OTRA, ASCH, NI, US
To: KADUNA IBADAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006